

Claims

1. An illuminated device comprising illumination means having at least one illumination plate, the, or each, plate comprising at least one face and at least one edge, and at least one light source adapted to deliver light into the, or each, illumination plate via the, or each, edge, and diffusion means comprising a cover having inner and outer surfaces; characterised in that the plate is a forward-diffusing acrylic material from the surface of which light emerges predominantly at an angle of less than  $30^{\circ}$  from the plane of the surface at the point of emergence; and in that the inner surface of the cover is disposed to overlie the, or each, face to form an enclosure, in which the, or each, face is disposed.
2. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the light emerges from the surface of the plate at an angle of less than  $5^{\circ}$  from the plane of the surface at the point of emergence.
3. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the illumination plate comprises a second face disposed in an opposing direction to the said face and separated therefrom by the, or each, edge and wherein at least one edge of the or each illumination plate is substantially perpendicular to at least one of its faces.

4. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the diffusion cover completely encloses the illumination plate or plates and wherein the boundary of the diffusion cover is equal to, or larger, than the boundary of the illumination plate, or plates, which it encloses.
5. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner surface area of the diffusion cover is greater than the surface area of the face of the illumination plate which it encloses.
6. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the minimum distance between at least one of the faces and the inner surface of the cover is at least 10mm.
7. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the minimum distance between at least one of the faces and the inner surfaces of the cover is not less than 30mm.
8. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the light source comprises at least one light emitting diode.
9. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the, or each, illumination plate is substantially flat.

10. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least part of the, or each, illumination plate is arcuate in shape.
11. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the second face of the plate is adapted to prevent light emerging therefrom by reflective means to reflect the light back into the illumination plate.
12. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the cover is a three dimensional shape.
13. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of a message, colour or graphic, is displayed on the cover.
14. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said at least one of a message, colour or graphic, is displayed on a light transmissive carrier which overlies the cover.
15. An illuminated device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least part of the inner surface of the cover is reflective.